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# LETTER,

TO A

# MEMBER

OF

# PARLIAMENT,

Occasioned,

By the growing *Poverty* of the NATION, from the Want and Decay of Trade, and wrong Management thereof.

WITH

Some *OVERTURES*, for encreasing and promoting the *One*, and Rectifying the *other*.

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*EDINBURGH*, Printed in the Year, 1700.

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*SIR,*

I would willingly have complyed with your juſt deſire, in taking pains to ſeek out a Man, that would be ſo kind to his Country as to give it a View of its preſent Circumſtances with Relation to *Trade*, and how matters ſtand with us, and the ſeveral places we trade with; But tho' all acknowledge this, as very fit to be done, that Men might ſee where, and to what places, we can trade with ſafety and Advantage of the Nation in general; Becauſe (as you well obſerved) our Forreign-Trade, as it's now manag'd, will, beyond all peradventure, entirely overthrow the Nation; Which thereby is already become very low.

Yet no Man can be found to undertake this buſineſs: And the truth is, there are but a very few that ſearch into the Myſtery of Trade, or are at pains to read the Hiſtory of it; And as for the Parliament, it's meddling with this matter in general, is equally difficult to them, as to the National Aſſemblies of all other places in the World: For (as ſome, that write upon Trade in our neighbour Nation, well obſerve) Parliaments, through the Throng of other Affairs, have no leaſure to inform themſelves, and conſider fully the Intereſt of the Nation with relation to it's *Trade*, and therefore help the Matter very little, ſave by referring it to a *Council of Trade*; And if the Parliament of *England*, who keep together, a much longer time than our Circumſtances will allow, cannot overtake this affair, how far ſhort muſt our Parliament come, in a Matter of this import; Specially now, when there is ſuch a viſible prejudice to the Nation, by *Trade and Diſorders in it.*

*The Parliament meets*, but for a little time, and about many other Deſigns than that of *Trade*. It's true, when they do meet, they appoint a *Committee for Trade*; But alas! What comes all this to? And therefore, it were to be wiſhed, That the Parliament would, of themſelves, make choice of the beſt qualified, and leaſt intereſted, in all their Aſſembly, to conſider the *Good and Profite of the Nation* in general; And that this *Committee of Trade* ſhould lay out themſelves to be informed of a few perſons, where they can be pick't out, through all the Nation, of the beſt Integrity and Underſtanding; Whether Members of Parliament or others, to be a ſtanding *Council of Trade*; *Giving* them power to reſtrict, limite and enlarge Import, or Export as it may ſeem moſt beneficial or

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leſs prejudicial to the Intereſt of the Nation: And, for this end, to conſider the Ballance of our Trade, with all the Nations we trade with, and more eſpecially to conſider our Manufactories, and what Encouragements ſhould be given to thoſe already erected; And where Manufactories are wanting, to give Directions and Encouragements for Erecting of them: That the Inhabitants of the Nation, and their wealth, may be thereby encreaſed and the poor put to Work, ſo as they may be maintained and kept from Beggary and Vice.

To enter upon a Diſcourſe, of *Trade in General*, or of the *Trade of this Nation* in particular, and of the Nations we trade with, and by what Nations we Gain, and by whom we Loſs in Trade, as I have ſaid, Is a matter, far above my reach or Capacity; Altho' the ſame be a Matter worthy of the Notice and Conſideration, of thoſe that can diſcover the ſame, to the Nation, for it's direction in Trade.

All intended by this, (tho' I be very unfit for the Undertaking,) is either to ſhew or to Provock others more Capable, to demonſtrate to the Nation its unevitable Ruine by its Trade with *France*, and in *French* Product and Manufacture; And *Secondly* to ſhew the Reaſon of the Grouth and Increaſe of our Poverty, And poor People; by our uſeing of any forreign Manufacture: And, in diſcourſing of both, to eſſay to obviat the Objections, that may be brought againſt either.

As to the firſt Particular *viz.* Our *Import of French Product* and *Manufacture*; It is eaſy to clear, how much both the Honour and Intereſt of this Nation is concerned, abſolutely to forbid the ſame: Seing it is evident, by their own Laws, That they refuſe us the Liberty of Importing to that Nation our Manufacture of *Herrings*: Accuſtomed to be tranſported thither, tho', when allowed, was far ſhort of their Wines and other Commodities we brought from thence; Beſide the taking from us many other Priviledges our Nation had in *France*, which we ſhould at leaſt declare we are not content with, and reſent; In ſuch a juſt manner as we can: Seing that for a long time by-paſt, We have been meer Drudges to that Nation in Trade, and they have always had a vaſt Annual Sum, perhaps *Fifty Thouſand Pounds Sterling* of nate Species out of this poor Country, for that which afforded us no Advantage, but was and is the Food and Foment of Luxury, Vice and Debauchery: Beſide that they have always been in uſe to carry away from us our richeſt Jewels *viz.* Our native Product of *Wool, Skins &c.* which they have cauſed their own people manufacture and return to us, with an *Item* five times above the value, we received for them at export, altho' if we had been wiſe, we might have rather

rather kept them within our ſelves, and put our Product in the hands of our Inhabitants to be manufactured; And, it's like, inſtead of our Product, they and other Nations, might have been prevailed with, to have taken the Manufacture of our Product thus exported; And thereby we ſhould have prevented the great Poverty and Miſery we have brought our ſelves under; Beſide that our Burrows and Citys, now waſted and ruinous, through want of Inhabitants and whoſe common Stock is exhauſted; Might have been in a moſt flouriſhing and Opulent Condition; by having theſe Manufactories and Stores of Merchandice, within themſelves, which is the only means of ſupporting Touns and Citys, that are in any flouriſhing condition. And further, the Proprietars of the Nation might have been greatly enriched by the Product of their Eſtates; in ſo far as the Grouth of their Eſtates, if manufactured within the Nation, would have given a greater Price, than now it does by Export; As alſo many poor and pinched Familys that live, upon their Ground, would have been ſupported and in caſe to have payed up their Fermes, by the wages that they might have got in Manufacture.

And is it not evident, and can it not be demonſtrate, even from the Records of our *Cuſtoms* (ſuch as they are) what a vaſt Sum of Money is yearly ſent out hence to *France* for Wines; albeit we might very well content our ſelves with, and improve the making of Liquors, of our own grain? Which would not a little add to their value. Beſide that it may, as well, if not better, agree with our conſtitutions; And, as far as Wine is needful, we may have it, from other places, to far greater advantage; And moreover, might not we make a farder Improvement, by planting of Aples, and other Fruites, which our ſoil would bear; and of theſe make Liquors, to ſatisfy nice Palats. And this is ſo undenyably evident, that it were loſt time, to ſay any more, upon ſuch a plain ſubject; For, ſeing its the intereſt of all, to comply with it, its hoped the Parliament will conſider it, and make proper Laws, and lodge the execution of them ſo, as the ſame may be effectual.

The next thing propoſed, to be ſpoke to, is, the reaſon of the grouth and Encreaſe, of our poverty and number of our Poor. And, as to this, there is none can refuſe it (the ſame being ſo ſenſibly felt) and the reaſon thereof, is the grouth of our *Luxury* and *Prodigality*; In ſo far as, in place of the practice of other Nations, who virtuouſly encourage the import of the product of Forreign places, to be Manufactured by their own people; whereby they procure a great reſort of all others that want theſe Manufactories, and greatly thereby enrich themſelves: We, on the contrair, ex-

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port all or moſt of our product, and ſuffer our Inhabitants to pine away in Miſery and Starve; And on the other hand, we do profuſely import all things, for *Apparel and Ornament* to our Bodies and Houſes; Although we might very well and very decently and conveniently be accomodate with the Manufacture of our own Native Product; with very little or no help from other places: And thus our *Imports* do ſo vaſtly exceed our *Exports*; that unleſs, in time, we take heed to it, we muſt utterly and inevitably waſte and decay.

For many Ages paſt, it has been the attempt of our Kings and Parliaments, to have Virtue and Induſtry promoted; that Vice, and Poverty, and other evils, that follow Idleneſs, might be eſchewed: And, for this end, there are many excellent Laws made for imploying the Inhabitants and putting them to work. *viz.* the 113 *Act. Parl.* 7. *Ja.* 6. 250 *Act.* 15. *Parl. Ja.* the 6*th.* 40. *Act.* 1. *Seſſion Parl.* 1. *Cha.* 2*d.* the 12. *Act.* of the 3*d. Parl.* of *Ch.* the 2. 1681. and ſeveral other Laws too tedious to mention.

Theſe Laws took effect, and the Nation did Manufacture its own Product, and carried it to Forreign Mercats; nay ſometimes Forreigners came to the Nation, and carryed it from us; whereby the Bullion of the Nation was much augmented, and, I am told, by thoſe that lived in theſe times, that Money was more plentiful at that time, then ſince: But theſe good Laws, and virtuous courſes, that followed upon them, have been unhappily broke off; by the ill example of the Gentry; who, going off the Kingdom, upon pretence of breeding and improvement, returned to us, full of a Spirit of *Luxury* and *Prodigality*, and inſtill'd gradually, in the Nation, all manner of *Vanity* in *Apparrel* and *Houſehold Furniture*: and ſo, thereby, we come to loath all our *own Product*, and the *Induſtry* and *Virtue* of *our own People*; to that degree, that, even theſe of the ſmalleſt Eſtates ſcrambled up to have themſelves, Families and Dwellings ſtuff'd with Forreign Attyre and Furniture: And thus, by degrees, Idle Perſons grew more and more numerous; And, for many years paſt, through our miſmanagement, our people in great multitudes, have been forced to ſell themſelves as bound Servants; and actually continue in Bondage, to other Nations in their Plantations, who might have been living amongſt us their Brethren; and we might have been greatly encreaſed, in number, and ſubſtance, by them.

Beſide, That our People waſted a great deal of *Time* and *Charges*, in travelling to, and through *Forreign Places*, to buy theſe Manufactures, and carried, and ſtill continue to carry away from us, vaſt Sums of Money, for the purchaſe of them; wherein if we continue, I leave it to any thinking man, to conſider, if we can eſcape utter Ruine. The

The deſign, of this Paper, is, principally to ſhew the preſent diſtreſs the Nation is under; and plainly and evidently to demonſtrate, how the many poor, that now abound may be ſubſiſted, by their own labour; and the Nation thereby eaſed of an unſupportable burden, not to be reckoned leſs than *One Hundred* and *Fifty Thouſand Pound Sterling per annum*, in maintaining ſuch a multitude of Idle People, who may maintain themſelves, and bring great Riches to the Nation.

The Government hath lately iſſued forth ſeveral Proclamations for keeping and maintaining the Poor, within their Reſpective Paroches; and there have been great wreſtlings, to accompliſh this; and the Nation has been ſtented in great Sums for this end; but all have proved ineffectual; For the Truth is: The Poor are ſo numerous, and the Nation is ſo waſted, by the Judgements of God upon us, through *Famine* theſe years paſt; that although we have ſtreatched our ſelves very much, yet the *Poor* drop away through want, nor can we reaſonably expect, for ſome time, to get above our Miſeries.

And therefore it were wiſdom, in us, to humble our ſelves, and ſet about theſe things we are called to; that is, to *Forbid* and *Diſcharge* the *uſing* of any *Forreign Manufacture* upon our Bodies, or in our Houſes; and rather, than this good Law were eluded and made ineffectual, it were better, that we tranſported, in a little time, hence, all Forreign Manufacture: That none of it may appear on our Bodies, or in our Houſes, but that we may entirely ſerve our ſelves, with the work of our own People.

For, tho' the Nation were able to maintain the Poor, and, for that end, to keep and gather them together, as the Proclamations enjoin; yet would it not be a great abuſe of theſe poor Creatures to keep them idle; which would make them more odious then Beaſts: Beſide, if they were without work, would it not expoſe them, to all Vice and Debauchery: But, for a demonſtration, that the *Poor* may be maintained; upon the ſuppoſition of the diſchargeing *Forreign Manufactures*; I ſuppoſe, that the number of the Workmen and Poor ſhall be above a third of the Nation, which ſeems to be a large computation; yet they may be maintained moſt plentifully, and the Healthy, and ſuch as are not infirm and maimed may be able, to maintain the Invalides; who are rarely to that degree unable, as that they can do no work. And the Aſſertion is thus proved. *viz.* As there is ſuppoſed to be a third, of the Nation, Workmen and poor, and two parts able to buy their own Cloaths and neceſſaries; yet it ſeems probable, and, upon experiment, may be found evident, that it will be work and ſubſiſtence enough, for one perſon, to maintain two in all

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things neceſſary, for their Body and other accommodations; So that, by this inſtance, the caſe is fully cleared and demonſtrate; tho' we ſhould export none of our own Manufactures.

But what folly is it, for the Nation, to indulge *Prodigality* and *Idleneſs*, even in the more ſubſtantial part of the Nation; Seing it were very commendable, by withdrawing from them prodigal forreign Commodities (which to obtain they waſte much of their time, and rack their Inventions, and ſeldom fail to waſte their Subſtance) to force them, to ſet their Inventions a work, who ſhould outdo one another in virtue, and Induſtry according to *Solomons* Obſervations, through the whole laſt Chapter of his *Proverbs*; particularly the laſt words, *Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own Works praiſe her in the gates*: And this we ſhould the more regaird, for the ſake of a young Generation, who may be compared to a Spring or Seed-time; Seing that, according to their firſt Inſtitution and Education, which they imbibe in their Youth, ſo it fares with them, through the whole Tract of their Life: Lazineſs in their Youth makes them regardleſs, nay averſe, to virtue, and Induſtry, and Labour; and Induſtry, in youth, Improves, by degrees, and will not eaſily be Eradicate; So that, if we put, and force them to work and virtue we muſt neceſſarly have of them a Harveſt of Wealth, Sobriety and Temperance, and the benefite will accreſce to following Generations, who will follow their Example.

The general Objections, againſt our *reſtricting our ſelves*, to the uſe of our own Product and Manufacture, ſeems to reſolve in theſe particulars. *Firſt*, Its objected, that our own Product is courſe and our Workmen not the beſt Artificers; And ſo cannot be made either ſo good, or ſo Cheap, as the ſame can be afforded, from abroad. As to which, *Firſt*, granting the truth of the Objection, yet it's the *Intereſt* of the Nation to *reſtrict them to it*; Albeit neither ſo Fine, Good, or Cheap; ſeing it is to be regarded, not ſo much for the *Product* and *Matter*, as for the *Labour* and *Induſtry of the people Imployed*: and to prefer Forreign things to *our own*, and thereby *wrong the Nation*, ſeems to be pointed at, in the 2. 7 *and* 10 *Verſes* of the 24 of *Job*: But *Secondly our own Product*, and the *Labour of our own People*, is, in many things, *as good*, and in ſome things *better* than that of Forreign Nations And, by Encouragement, would doubtleſs *be improven*: As, *for Inſtance*, it is not long ſince our Nation *Imported*, a great deal of *Manufacture*, made by *Hammermen*, ſuch as *Joyners*, *Smiths*, *Cutlers*, *Gun-Smith*, *Gold-Smiths*; And yet now theſe *Trades* have happily defeat and outdone all *forreign Manufactures*, of theſe kinds; And, no doubt, all

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*other Trades, in the Nation,* upon *just Encouragement,* will come up their Length; And if *Encouragement* be offered, upon their equalling forreign Manufacture, and allowing them time to do it, they will surely accomplish the same. For why should we be *so unjust to our selves,* as to condemn *our People,* as dull and Incapable, when, *in other Nations,* in all the Employments they have set themselves to, *they have in nothing come short.*

And, here, I must go a little out of the Road and Thread of my Discourse, to regrate our *Pride* and *Folly*; In *Despising* and *Undervaluing Handy-Craft Trades* and *Trades Men,* so as to disdain to keep company, with them, or look upon them, as our *Fellow-Citizens,* far less to educate and bring up our Children, which have any degree of Capacity, or means, to advance these *necessary* (and which we should esteem *honourable*) *Callings* and *Employments*; And this helps to make *us such dull Artists.*

It's also certain, that *our Trades,* upon pretence of their *Seals of Causes,* and *Priviledges,* or what you please to call them, hinder many *qualified Artists,* to come in among us who might be of great use and no way wrong their Trade, or private gain, but *improve it*; Beside that the *General Good* of the *Nation* is thereby *mightily prejudged.*

But to return, to the Answer to the Objection; Has not our *Manufactories* of *Cloath, Stockings, Wool,* and *Flax, Cards, Leather, Stirling-Searges, Stuffs, Paper, Glass White* as well as, *Green-Hatts &c.* Arrived to a very good degree of *Perfection*? And there are in Manufactures always vast Multitudes of *People Supported* and *maintained*; Such as *Teesers, Cleaners, Combers, Spinners, Dyers, Weavers, Walkers, Hat-Makers, Tanners Curriers Coach-Makers, Skinners,* and Multitudes of others are necessarly employed who otherways would be a burden upon the Nation; So that to suffer *our Wool* to be *exported,* and *our people starving,* is an *unaccountable Evil,* and exposes us to the *scorn* and *derision* of all the *Nations* about us. And as to our Manufactory of *Stockings,* it is every way as *good* as the *Forreign.* Nay, in *knitting* of Stockings, we exceed all other Nations in the World; For what Nation can produce such good *Knitt Stockings* as are made at *Aberdeen?* Beside, that the said place affords several other kinds of good *Wool-Manufactures* in *Stuffs &c.*

As to what is *Objected,* That *we have more Wool than we are able to consume,* Beside the Wool *Imported* from other places; which Imported Wool at least we should Export, seing Imported Wool wrongs not the Nation when Exported, but rather does advantage it. As to this its certain, it is



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the advantage of any Nation to *Import* and *Export* (when it can be done without loss) any sort of Commodity; Seing it advances Navigation. But then its to be considered, that if *Forreign Wool*, or any other *Forreign Product* come to the Nation, and that the Inhabitants be able to Manufacture it; Or if they can procure the People of any other Nation to come in amongst them, and Manufacture it: It is not the Wisdom of the Nation to Export it, till it be put to the best avail by Manufacture; But if *our Nation* have really *more Wool*, or other *Product of their own*, Or that they can get it from others, than is *necessary*, for the *Manufactories*; it should, no doubt, be Exported; yet at the same time, we must consider, to what place, lest it be carried to a place, where we may have Sale for *our Manufacture*, or be *prejudged* by that Nations making use of it; for Manufactories: For, rather than carry it to such places, better to make any other use of it. Nay, some Nations, in such a circumstance, have *Burnt* their Commodities, rather than *wrong* their *Mercat*; But if all the Inhabitants of *Scotland* be put to *Work*, and all wandering Begging People *restrained*, and *employed*, we will be, in no such difficulty of disposing of *our own Native Product*, and that which we Import of *Wool*, *Lint*, &c. Again as to *our Linnen*, what vast *Riches* would it bring to us, and how many People would it Employ, if we would restrict our selves to *our own Manufacture of Linnen*, not excepting *Musline*? For its certain, necessity would make us improve our *Linnen Manufacture*; and, in stead of *Muslins*, we might have great multitudes of the *Female Sex*, Employed in making of *White Lace*, and *Point*; which, upon the Encouragement that the Discharge of the use of *Forreign Muslins* would afford, would extreamly Encourage Women of very good Fashion and Substance, to put their hand to Work, in making of *Lace*, *Sewing* of *Point*, and making of *Fine Linnen*, to wit *Lain* and *Cambrick*, which may be as decent as *Muslins*; And we do also already make very good *Muslins* of our own *product*, which we may very well be content to use within our Nation. Beside, and which is ever to be regarded, that if we be thus driven to a necessity, it will mightily *advance our Genius*, and drive away our habite of *Idleness*, and *Lazieness*; and this will, infallibly, take effect: Seing there would be Encouragement, to work *our own Product*, for the sweet of *Gain* and *Riches*, that would accrue by it; And would *engage* and make every one *endeavour*, who should *outdoe* another, in making that which is good. And here would be a special way of Improving the small *Stocks* of *Poor Widows*, and *Fatherless Children*, who, no doubt, in stead of Lodging their Money in the hand of some, that oftimes prove *Bankrupt*, would rather employ it in *buying* up the *Product*, and keeping at work *many Ser-*

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*vants* in their Families about it; And ſo, in ſtead of their being *Drudges*, within their own *Families*, about *little Houſehold ado's*, would be able to *Hire Servants*, proportionable to the *Stocks* they have, and ſet them and their Children at Work: And thus the *Wages* of *Servants* would be augmented: and, in ſtead of *Five* or *Six per Cent*, which poor Widows and Orphans for their *Stocks*, they may at leaſt make *Ten* or *Twelve*; and thus every *Family* would become a *Manufactory*.

A ſecond Objection Appears to be this, That a great part of the Nation, that Exports *Native Product*, and Import *Forreign Manufacture*, and ſells them in their Shops; whereby ſome have purchaſſed great Eſtates, would be quite *Ruined*, and all *Trade* that way would be *entirely cut off*; which would ly moſt heavy upon *Countrey Gentlemen's Families*, who, generally, breed their Children in that way of Living. In this Objection, there is no weight at all; and it were *loſt labour*, to give an Anſwer to it; ſeing what is already diſcourſed, does ſufficiently take it off; It having been fully cleared, that it is the *Ruine* of the Nation, to Export *Native Product*, and Import *Forreign Manufacture*. Its readily granted, that ſome have made *Eſtates*, by this way of *Trade*; But its as true, that, by the *Manner* of it, they have *undone many moe*; and the Younger Brother, the Merchant, by his Toyes, hath very frequently befool'd his Elder Brother the Laird out of his Eſtate. But it were more commendable, in our *Gentry*, to breed their Children, to *Handy-Craft-Trades*, or to *Merchandice*, by Exporting *our Manufacture*, and Importing *Materials* fit for it; and they might readily make more this way, than the former: at leaſt, People of *other Nations* do ſo. Beſide, all our *Shop-keepers* can declare, that they have more Profite, in ſelling the *Little Manufacture* we have, at preſent, than they have, by ſelling *Forreign Manufacture*; and it is impoſſible, it can be otherwayes. But, granting, that the Forbidding of *Forreign Manufacture* ſhould encroach upon, and diminiſh, the *Trade* of *Private Perſons*, Trading in the things forbidden; yet, where can the inſtance be given, that theſe *Murmuring*, *Invidious*, private Perſons were indulged, and their private Intereſt did weigh with the *Wiſdom* of any *Nation* or *State*, to overthrow a *Publick National Good*; becauſe hurtful to their private Gain; which yet cannot fall out in this caſe. Seing *Shop-keepers* will have leſs hazard and more Profite, in buying *our own Manufacture*, and Retailing it in their *Shops*, than now they have by bringing Home and Retailing *Forreign Manufacture*. And it is confidently aſſerted, the *Shop-keepers* in *Edinburgh*, that have experimented both, will declare it to be ſo.

A Third Objection, Is the *Loſs*, the *Nation*, both *Merchants* and *Pri-*

*vate Perſons*, would have, by *Diſcharging* the *Uſing* of *Forreign Manufacture*, *already Imported*. As to this Objection, If it were poſſible, to reſtrain us from further Import, there would be no need of *Diſcharging* the *Uſing* and *Wearing out*, what is within the Nation; but we have, by doleful experience, found, that our Laws *Diſcharging Export* of *Product*, and *Import* of *Forreign Manufacture*, have been Shamm'd, and Baffled, and only *Hurtful* to *Honeſt* and *good Countrey-men*, that obſerved them: while others, to the Ruine of the Country, broke and trampled upon them: even thoſe, whoſe Station and Employ obliged them, to put them in Execution. *viz.* Our *Cuſtomers*, and their *Servants*, who have, of late years, done, and to this Hour, to the *Reproach* of *our Nation*, continue to *doe more hurt*, to the *Nation*, then perhaps the value of a *Fourth part* of it, by *Suffering* by their *Wicked connivance*, all manner of things *Prohibite*, by the Laws to be *Exported* and *Imported*, and if a narrow enquiry be made, ſome of them, at leaſt will be found, to be actually concerned, in the *Export* and *Import*, *contrary to Law*.

Beſide, that *our Nobles* and *Gentlemen*, in their Return, from *Abroad*, have always had forbidden Goods; If not of *their own*, yet belonging to their *Servants*, in their *Coaches*, and among their *Baggage*, and in the parcels belonging to them, which are oftimes carried ſtreight, from *Ship Board*, to their *Lodgeings*, without *Survey* or *Notice*; And, by this handle, and the Uneaſineſs to guard the *Wide dry March*, upon the Border, the *Act of Parliament* 1681, And all our other *Laws*, of that kind, have been rendered, of no effect, and are become *no Laws*; againſt which, a remedy cannot be found, except, by *forbiding the uſe of forreign Manufacture*, after a prefixed day.

Nor can the Loſs, the Nation may be at, by *forreign Manufacture* upon hand, be regarded, to ſtop the *Advantage*, the Nation may have, in oblidging us to *uſe our own Manufacture*, tho they ſhould be oblidg'd, to export all the *Forreign* Manufacture. Beſide, the *Parliament*, it's like, will allow ſome reaſonable time, either to *wear out*, or *Tranſport*, if not worn out at the time limited, what, of *Forreign* Manufacture, may be, in the Nation.

A *Fourth* Objection may be, That, tho' Laws were made to this effect, yet there would be no keeping of them; For as they have hitherto ſtill been broke, by *Exporting* and *Importing*, ſo Men would *Continue* to do ſtill: And even to Wear *Forreign* Manufacture, in ſtead of Our own; Seing it could not be *diſtinguiſhed*, upon Peoples *Bodies*, nor in their *Houſes*, what were *Forreign* and what not. This Objection, indeed, is of great Import, and will be found, to be very hard, to be taken off; and Rules ſet down, ſo as to prevent it; Yet, for Anſwer, if there ſhall

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be *ſevere Laws* made againſt *Tranſgreſſours*, under the *higheſt pains*, ſuch as *Forfeiture* of the *Transgreſſours Eſtates*, and *Baniſhment*, or rather than fail, *Life it ſelf*; which is not hard in this Caſe; Seing, by theſe practices, many have been *bereaved* of their *Living*, and conſequently of *their Life*: And that all *Judges*, and other *Officers*, of the *Law*, be, under the like *Penalty*, ordered to *Execute* the Law; If it it ſhall be found the Tranſgreſſion was *Known*, or *ſignified* to them; and that all manner of *Probation* be allowed, by *Write*, *Witneſſes*, or *Oath* of party; and that, to diſcover the *neglect* of *Judges*, and *Officers*, there be a *Box*, like that of the *Lords* of *Seſſions* Boxes, to ſtand in the *Lobby*, without the *Privy Council Chamber-Door*; wherein *Information* may be put, againſt any, that ſhall be *guilty*; And that the Privy Council do, once a Moneth, look into the ſaid *Box*, and order the *Proſecution*, of any, that may be *Informed* againſt. It is probable, Men will be brought off their ill practices, and theſe, that have the *Execution* of the Law, become more *exact* and *circumſpect*. And this ſecret method of *Informing* ſhould the rather be ordered; Becauſe, tho' Men know People *Guilty*, yet *Fear* of being wronged, by the Perſons againſt whom they *Inform*, or ſome other conſiderations, hinders them to appear publickly as *Informers*, and *own* the *Informations*. *Secondly*, It's known, how the *Nation* has been Abuſed, by the *Tackſ-men* of the *Cuſtoms*, at leaſt by their *Managers*; who regard nothing, but how to *Profite* by their *Tack*: For they take all the ways, *per fas & nefas*, by *Hook* and by *Crook*, to make their *profite*; and regard none of the *Laws*, that would hinder it; As, on the other hand, they oftimes *ſtreatch the Law*, to come at it: And it were a moſt commendable thing in the *Parliament*, to call them to an account, for bygone *Miſcarriages*, and make them *Vomit* up their ill got *Gain*, in ſuffering *Prohibite* Goods to be *Exported* and *Imported*, under the Tricking denomination of *Goods by the value*, or the like ſhamm: For none of the Duty of theſe Goods Prohibite, to be *Exported*, or *Imported*, can be ſaid, to be ſet to them in their *Tack*, tho' perhaps, at the Iſſue, they will crave an Abatement, for the ſtoping of the *Export* of *Wool*, and *Import* of *Forreign Wool* Manufactured.

And, to demonſtrate the Miſchief, of the *Cuſtoms* being *ſet* in *Tack*; The ſame is evident, from the Practice of the *Managers*, of this *preſent* Tack, who hinder all except their *own dear friends*, and *Relations*, to trade in *Goods forbidden*: For, as to *honeſt* and *Good* Men, they obſerve the *Law*; But even the very *Managers* of this Tack do not only *Suffer* their own *Friends*, as ſaid is, but they themſelves, upon their own Account, and as Merchants do continually, *notwithſtanding*

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of the *Prohibition* and their *Station*, and Contrary to *Common-Honesty*, *Import* and *Export* what is *forbidden*, by the Laws lately revived, and solemnly intimate to them. And, Lately, some of them were taken, as it were, *with the Fang in reid-hand* (and which is carefully to be noticed) not after the *Ship* is *cleared*, but while lying in a *Close Harbour*, under the inspection of the *Collector*, at least under the inspection of the *Surveyer*, whose Duty it is to *Survey* every Parcel, before it be shipped, according to its *Entry*; And the *Waiter* still to stay upon the Ship, to observe, that nothing be *carried-in*, without *Entry*; Yet there is *Parcels* of great *Bulk* actually *Seized*, not in a *Corner* of the *Ship*, but even openly, as if the *Tacks-men* and their *Servants*, with a bare face, resolved, to *Trample* upon the *Law*, and *abuse* the Kings *Subjects*. Wherefore it's hoped, their Masters, the *Royal Burrows*, will enquire into this, whose Inhabitants suffer most by it; And, no doubt, the *Parliament*, will think it most necessary, for the good of the Nation, to make a *Narrow Scrutiny* into the *Conduct* of their Manadgers, who, without breach of Charity, may be Judged, to have had clearer Eyes, to look to their own private Advantage, than to the *Publick-Good* of the *Burrows*; And much less to the *Execution* of the *Laws*, for the *Utility* of the *Nation*. And what is above said will too evidently be made appear, by the *Production* of the *Custom-Books*, of each *Port*, and a close Examination of the *Clerks* of *Custom-Houses*, as to the Faithfullness of the saids *Books*; And of their not being made up, *ex post facto*, to meet the Difficulty now started. As also, the Examination of *Surveyers* and *Waiters*, of their Knowledge of *Export* and *Import*, declareing their Testimony should not militate against themselves, or prejudge them, in their Employ, as to *by-past Miscarriages*. And farder, they employ none, to serve them, but such as they make *Slaves* to them; For *First*, the *Surveyers* and *Waiters* must, right or wrong, do as they command them; Otherways they presently turn them off; And, the truth is, they, especially the *Waiters*, are but poor; And Poverty, being an Enemy to Honesty, and they being so absolutely *Slaves* to the *Tacks-Men*, they do what they please, altho' they be, as to the Laws, forbidding *Export* and *Import*, the Nations Servants as well as the *Tacksmen's*, in seing, that no Goods go free of Custom. And therefore if it were declared, that, where any *Export* or *Import*, forbidden, shall be discovered, to be exported or Imported, contrary to Law, that the *Collector Surveyor* and *Waiters*, in whose bounds the same is done, and who shall be proven conscious thereof, should be removed and punished as above; and a good reward given, to the Discoverer whether

ther one of themselves or others. This might be also a good *Mean*, to get the Laws observed, if upon all guilty the Law be duely execute. It appears also, by what is said, that there should be no *Tack* of the *Customs* or any *publick Imposition*, but the same should be *Collected*.

But, against *Collecting*, It's Objected, That, by the Tricks of *Collectors*, the *King is cheated*, and his *Revenue* comes to a little and an uncertain account. It's true, this has been, and perhaps would be, but yet, if Men, of known Integrity and Honesty, were entrusted, the *King*, and His *Exchequer* would find their account better by Collection than by Tack; and such Men can be had, if sought for: And the reason, why they have not been got formerly, and if the same Rules formerly taken were still followed, would perhaps never be found; Is, because, that no man, tho' otherways never so well qualified, if he want *Recommendation* of some one or other *Great Man* of the *Government*, he is not thought a fit person. My intent is not, to Condemn such Recommendations, but only humbly to advise, that Great Men would know well, whom they Recommend, to these or any other place of Trust; For, its known, that Men, tho' none of the best Reputation, yet upon the Recommendation of a Great Man, has been judged fully qualified, tho' perhaps he had no other Qualification.

It would likewayes be greatly useful to Trade, that the considerable *Custom-houses*, in the Kingdom, such as *Leith*, *Glasgow*, *Dundee*, *Aberdeen*, *Innerness*, &c. had a *Custom-House-Judge*, appointed to sit in each *Custom-house*, the whole *Sederunt* Hours; to decide summarly betwixt the *King* and *Subject*, upon any controversy, which arises, according to the Custom of other Nations: And not be obliged, to come, for every Trifle, to the Thesaury; which is so expensive a Court, and so tedious, that the Remedy is worse than the Disease. And this *Judge*, to be named by the *Council of Trade*, to whom he is to be Answerable. It being certain, that Justice should be administrate, *in the Gates*, of every City, specially in *Matters of Trade*.

But to conclude the Answer, to the Objection, that tho' *Laws were made, yet they will not be kept*, There is one Advice I have yet to give, which, I judge, will not faill to render the Laws *compleatly Effectual*; And that is, *Noblemen*, and *Gentlemen* would Countenance the Observance of those Laws by their *Example*; For, as our Youth, and others, who Travel Abroad, have been the Instruments of much *Vanity* and *Prodigality*, in using Forreign Manufacture, and *despising* and bringing in disuse our own *Native Product* and *Manufacture*, and thereby provocking the Nation to a most Pernicious Imitation: For which, GOD, in his *Righte-*

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*buſineſs*, has *Afflicted* us, with many *Judgements* and rendered us very *Low* and *Miſerable*; So, if theſe *Noblemen* and *Gentlemen* would, by their *Example*, in making uſe of nothing for their *Bodies*, and the Bodies of thoſe in their *Families* and about them and in their *Houſes*, except our own Product and Manufacture, and thereby hinder all Unneceſſar Export; It would, infallibly, expell the Plague and Diſtemper, which doth univerſally abound of uſing *Forreign Manufacture*; Seing that *Example* is frequently more *Cogent* then *Precept*; and if theſe of Higher Rank would give this good Example, as they are bound in *Conſcience* and *Honour* to do, *the Bleſſings, of them that are ready to periſh, would come upon them*: And the Advantages thereby ariſing to their *Country* and Poor Needy Countreymen, would raiſe to them more *Laſting Honour*, and *Reputation*, than can be derived from the Counterfeit Luſtre, of all the gay Apparrel, that the Univerſe affords: Since Greatneſs conſiſts not in Apparrel, but in the *Excellency of a Virtuous and Generous Soul*. And, Therefore, as they are Noble and Great in *Birth*, and other things, So they are earneſtly entreated, to be *Good* and *Virtuous*, in their *Examples* and *Paterns* to others, of Inferior Rank; and even to uſe, at all times, and in all publick appearances, not the very fineſt of our Manufacture, but ſometimes to uſe a Courſer ſort of it; to ſhame away, from the meaner ſort of People, *Vanity* and *Prodigality*; which, beſide all the other good things before mentioned, would greatly Advance them in *Riches* and Worldly *Wealth*.

Another *Objection* will be, That this reſtraint of uſing Forreign Manufacture, cannot reaſonably be, until we have Manufactories of our own, that may ſerve the Kingdom.

*It is Anſwered*, That, upon the Diſcharge of the uſe of Forreign Manufacture, every body will beſtirr themſelves to ſet up Manufactories, that may be requiſite, to ſupply the want of the Forreign; And, in a little time, before we can be in hazard of ſtrait, the Nation will be in caſe to Anſwer all the demands, which the people can make, for their accommodation. And altho' at firſt, our own Manufacture ſhall not be ſo Good, and Cheap, as the Forreign, yet it can be no Reflexion upon us, to ſerve our ſelves with our own, tho' not altogether ſo good, in all kinds as the *Forreign*. Beſide that, in a little time, we will ſurely arrive, if due Encouragement be given, to *as good a degree*, as that of *Forreign* Manufacture; For, it is ridiculous, to think, that Manufactories any where did, or could at *Firſt*, come to *Perfection*; And it can indeed no more be expected, than that a Child *New-born* ſhould do all things as a Man of perfect age: And therefore, as we are bound to have *Patience*, and cheriſh Children, till they attain to *Vigour*, to ſerve us, ſo we muſt do with

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our *Manufactories*, and *not ſtiffle* them, in the Birth, nor Murder them, in their *Infancy*; Becauſe, *not*, at firſt, *Compleatly Serviceable*.

The *laſt Objection*, that occurs, upon the *Diſcharge* of *French* wines, and *Forreign* Manufacture, is the *loſs* the *King* would be at, in His *Cuſtoms*; which he cannot *want*, being the *Ordinary Fund*, for *Supporting the Government*, and *defraying* the *Charge* of its *Adminiſtration*.

As to which, *its granted*, That this would be a great *Diminution*, and, without it, or the equivalent, in place of it, the *Government* could *not* be *Supported*; But, it is, no doubt, more the *Intereſt* and *Advantage* of King, and People, that theſe things ſhould be *forbidden*, to be Imported, than to *Continue* the Import to be a *Fund* for the *Cuſtoms*. And Therefore, the *Parliament* ſhould think upon ſome thing equivalent, for *Support* of the *Government*; And whatever way it be given, it is certainly more the *Intereſt* and *Advantage*, both of King and People, to *comply* with it, then *ſuffer* themſelves, to be *utterly undone*, by the *Import* of the foreſaid *Forreign Merchandice*.

But, in the next place, it would be *conſidered* that the *Improvement*, of Manufacturees at *Home*, is the *great mean*, by which, the *Trade*, of a *Nation*, is *Advanced*; by *Importing*, what is deficient with us, and yet neceſſar to *our* Manufacturs, and *Exporting* what is *Manufactured*, above what we can make uſe of, our ſelves; which, with other Advantages, ariſeing from a flouriſhing Trade, could not, but in a ſhort time, encreaſe the Cuſtoms; And if Prohibitions, of what is already manufactured, were ſuch a loſs to the Kings Revenue, as is groundleſly imagined; *France* and other Nations, who carefully regaird their, Intereſt, would not be *Zealous*, in ſuch Prohibitions.

I ſhall not inſiſt, on our Product, and Manufacture of *Herrings* and White-Fiſh, and the like, that our Coaſts are full off, and which ſtranger Nations make vaſt Riches by; The ſame is of ſuch Conſequence, and the Riches, that might accrue thereby, ſo very conſiderable, that it is a wonder, the Nation has let it ſlip out of their Hands, and fall into the Hands of Strangers. Which will be hard, to recover, to that degree, that it might have been brought to, at the Beginning: But ſhall only ſay, it were one of the beſt peices of our Virtue, to carry on that Trade, if we can ſecure a Market, for them abroad, which, now by the Exact Diligence, of Neighbour Nations, ſeems, to be taken out of our Hand: And, Therefore, pains ſhould be taken, to recover a Mercat for them: And then ſet about the buſineſs, whereby a great many *Sea-men* might be bred. But, to Diſcourſe, at length, and ſhew the *Advantage* of the *Product* of this Manufacture would ſwell this to a greater *Volumn*, than is intended.

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And as it is the *Indiſpenſible neceſſity*, of the Nation, to *ſet up* and *Encourage* Manufactories, to *Mantaine the Poor*; So, it ſhould be no leſs their concern, to promote our *Plantations in America*, with the outmoſt Vigour: Seing the ſame would be a moſt proper place, and better than any place in *Europe*, for the Conſumpt of our Manufactories; Our Manufactory being more adapted, to the Service of theſe Countries, then the Manufactory of any other Nation, in *Europe*: And, the truth is, our Manufactories, without a *Plantation*, to Conſume them, will come to no great account; Seing all places, in *Europe*, either have Manufactories of their own or have ſupplies from other places; which ſhould make us, with the more Diligence, endeavour to have a *Plantation*, for the Conſumpt, of what we ſhall have of Manufacture, more than ſerves our ſelves: And this is all, I ſhall ſay, of that matter.

There is another thing, in Relation to our Manufactories, that had much need to be helped, and, for which, we have ſome *Laws* already made; And, that is, to have our Weavers, *Coupers* and other *Tradeſmen*, obliged, to make our *Cloaths*, of an equal length and breadth, and of one and the ſame *Yearn*, and not, as they have been uſed to do, to make one end of *Round Yearn*; and the other of ſmall *Yearn*, and one end thicker, than another, and oftimes putting the beſt and fineſt end without, As alſo that our Cask of *Salmond*, *Herrings*, *&c.* be of a certain meaſure. We have by thir Tricks *rendered* all our Manufacture Abroad very ſuſpicious, and our Manufacture have not the Credit, in Forreign *Mercats*, as theſe of other *Nations*, through the foreſaid *Abuſe*; which ſhould be carefully and effectually helped: But all, that ſhould execute the Laws, neglect them: And this has brought upon us, the *Miſery*, we now ly under, and make us *Contemptible*.

Having thus, fully, cleared the neceſſity and advantage of diſcharging the *Export*, of our *Native Product*, till firſt Manufactured, and the *Import*, of *Wines*, and *Forreign* Manufacture: And Anſwered all the Objections, that can rationally be brought againſt the ſame, It remains, to be *diſcourſed upon*, How the *Product* of the Nation, to be reſtrained to be Exported, and the Product of other Nations Imported, ſhall be made uſe of, and Manufactured and who ſhall be the perſons, that will undertake to *Collect*, and gather together the wandring and begging *Poor*, and *Maintain* them, in *Lodging*, *Victuals* and other Neceſſaries, and putthem, to *Work*, and where the *Fund* ſhall be got, to accompliſh this Undertaking.

In order, to clear this matter; *Firſt*, it's to be conſidered, that there being *Laws*, appointing every Paroch, to maintain its own Poor, and ſtent themſelves, for that end; Which was afterward altered, and the *Burrows* ordained, to erect Hoſpitals, and to gather the adjacent poor,

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and put them therein, It is humbly propoſed, that the whole poor of the Nation, ſhould be liſted, and notice taken, of their Age, Health, and Infirmities.

2*ly*, It is to be conſidered, the ſaid poor are to get no wages but meerly Meat and Cloath.

3*dly*, That the *Royal Burrows* are generally in a great decay; many conſiderable Fabricks, within them, being waſte, and without Inhabitants, and deſtitute of Trade, or repair.

From which Conſiderations, It were fit, that the Number of the poor were divided, amongſt the Royal Burrows according to their reſpective Stents; Or as they ſhall otherways accord among themſelves; And that they ſhould employ the waſte Lodgeings and Dwellings within their reſpective Burghs, for the Uſe and Accommodation of their reſpective Dividends, of the poor, and for Work-Houſes, to them. 2*dly*. That the poor of every Burgh, ſhould be employed in one kind and Species of Manufacture, and no more; As, for Example, a Burgh that makes Cloath, to make nothing elſe; a Burgh that makes Searges, to make nothing elſe; A burgh that makes Camblets, to make nothing elſe; A burgh that makes Linnen, to make ſuch a Species and kind of Linnen, and nothing but that kind and Species: And ſo furth *&c:* Which Method, of reſtricting to one Species, would make the ſeveral Manufactories, very expert in each kind; Seing the makeing one thing over again may improve the firſt, and the third the ſecond, and ſoforth the oftner it is repeated, The Artiſts may, no doubt, do it gradually better and better. 3*dly*. That the ſeveral kinds of Manufactures, be poſted in ſuch Burghs, and places of the Country as may be moſt commodious, for carrying them on. 4*ly*. That the reſpective Burghs ſhould have the whole Wool, Skins, Lint, *&c:* Divided amongſt them, in ſuch Proportions, as they have of poor; And agreeable to the Nature and Kind of their reſpective Manufactures. 5*ly* That each Burgh ſhould procure good Artiſts and Tradeſ-Men, to inſtruct and teach their reſpective poor people in the Manufactories they ſhall take themſelves to; And that there be Overſeers, one for Males another for Females, in every Hoſpital, to inſpect their Manners and Work: And where any ſhall be Lazie and Idle, to force them to work,, according to their Ability, by chaſtiſement. 6*ly*. That the Magiſtrates, of the reſpective Burghs, ſhould weekly, by ſome of their Number, viſite the ſaid Hoſpitals and hear their Complaints, and rectify all Diſorders, and ſee, that the poor be well accomodate, in Victuals Cloaths and other neceſſaries. And ſeing the poor are to get no wages,

but meerly Entertainment, its certain, the Royal Burghs, that erect thir Hospitals, and keep thir poor, must, in a little time, become very rich by their Labour. Beside, that the Inhabitants, of the said Burghs, and Trades-men within the same will be greatly enriched; by the resort of people to these Magazines, to supply all the remoter Parts of the Country, with what is Manufactured in these respective Burghs. And, therefore, they should be very careful, of the poor, that they be not exacted upon, by severe Task-Masters, or be not wronged in their Subsistance, and Cloathing. And as this, with the Manufacture of private Persons, and Families, and Execution of the Laws, against the Import of Forreign Manufacture, would fully consume all our Native Product, and what Product we may Import from other places, and so remove the fears of Loss, and a low price, that the Proprietors of our Product of Wool *&c.* Apprehend. So, this is a far better way, to raise up Burghs, sunk in Debt, then having a share of the Tack of the profite of the Customs, or even the Donatives it self, of *two Pennies* upon the pint; For by such ways, and Means, it is, that all the Burghs and Touns, in all other Nations in the World, come to be rich, and Opulent: And where such Virtue, and Industry, is wanting, where can the Instance be given, that a City, or Toun, in any place of the World, is of any Consideration. And *lastly*, the Execution, of these good Overtures, should be committed, either to the standing *Council*, of Trade, or a special Commission, for this very purpose.

It will be readily said, that tho' what is proposed, be the Practice of all flourishing Citys, and Touns in other places, and tho' the Method proposed be practicable, and might be put in execution by the Burghs of *Scotland*; Yet the Proposal, tho' demonstrate, to be most advantageous, is, to them, impracticable, they being like men, without hands, that cannot take hold of it: Because, of their poverty and ruinous Condition.

This Objection seems to be the hardest part to be resolved, in what is projected to the *Royal Burrows*; Yet, for Answer, to this Objection. *First*, where the Common-Stock of Burghs is insufficient, for the Project, it were the Interest of the Inhabitants, and Land-Lords, within the Burgh, and even Neighbours, that dwell near to the said Burghs, to assist these invalide Burghs, to take their proportion; Because it might be to their private Advantage, as well as to the publick good, of the Burgh. *2ly*, If we should suppose the haill Burghs, of *Scotland*, as well as one here or there, to be incapable, to carry on their Manufactories, and therein conveen and employ the poor, Yet it is the Interest, of the

the Nation, that the ſame be done, tho' it ſhould not be done, by the *Royal Burrows*, nor private perſons; which, upon Suppoſition of forbidding Export and Import as above, can never fail to be ſet about by them. But I ſay, tho' neither the Burrows nor private perſons, ſhould do it, it is the Intereſt, of the Nation, that the forſaid Commiſſion be granted, for ſo great, and ſo good a Work.

If it were agreeable, to Religion and Convenience, that Men kept an account, of the Expences of their Charity, it would be found, that the Expences, of maintaining the poor, even to theſe, that pay *Ceſs*, caſting the liberal and the churliſh together, without reckoning upon the Charity of theſe that pay no *Ceſs*, far exceeds *Six Moneths Ceſs per Annum*; And yet, it's certain, that little more than *Tuelve Moneths Ceſs* would be a *Fund* to gather all the poor together, and maintain them, and buy neceſſaries, to put them to work; Whereby they would, in the ſpace of *ſeven* Years, be able to reimburſe the Advance and have a *Fond*, for all time thereafter, and become the wealth of the Nation.

And, its hoped, that the *Artiſts* and *Tradeſ-men*, of the Nation, will make *Application*, to the *Parliament*. or the *Commiſſion*, to be, by them, appointed, for advanceing *Trade* and *Manufactures*, and Employing of the Poor; and, for that end, that the ſeveral *Corporations* ſhould meet by themſelves, and Conſider, how far every *Corporation* can aſſiſt in the matter, and give in *Propoſals* accordingly.

And thus, in my *Apprehenſion*, and according to my Ability, I have demonſtrate, to the Nation; it's *inevitable Ruine*, by continueing Trade with *France*, and by the *Import* of *Forreign* Manufacture; And, next, I have ſhown the Reaſon of the Grouth, of our poverty and poor People, by *Export* of our own *Native* Product, and uſing of *Forreign* Manufacture: and, wherein I have come ſhort, or am in a miſtake, I earneſtly entreat, that thoſe of better Underſtanding, and more capable, may not neglect to ſupply, what is wanting, and offer it, to the *Parliament*, that they may Conſider it.

And now to Conclude all, It is humbly Expected, That His *Majeſties High Commiſſioner*, And the Honourable Members of *Parliament*, would ſeriouſly Conſider, the whole matter above repreſented, with diligent Application; and Judge, whether or not, the above Diſcourſe be ſeaſonable: And if the Subject be not moſt worthy of their ſerious Reflexion, wherein as *Job* Expoſtulates in the firſt four Verſes of the 26. *Chap.* I wiſh, that all and every one of them, may help thoſe that are without Power, and ſave them that have not Strength; and give Counſel to them that want Wiſdom, and not ſcantly, but, as *Job* requires, plentifully declare things as they are; and that the Spirit of the Nation, may come from them, for

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the repreſſing of *Vice*, *Idleneſs* and *Wickedneſs*, and the Encourageing of *Truth*, and *Virtue*: And this would bring great *Peace*, and *Tranquillity*, to all in Truſt, that heartily and Cheerfully go on, to diſcharge the Duties, that belong to their Stations, for the good, of the Nation, in general, and of every particular place, they repreſent and ſerve, laying aſide all Factions and Parties, and forbearing to follow any Patron or Party further, then God and their Conſcience ſhall direct them.

And this Courſe, would in my *Opinion*, be a *way*, in part, to Anſwer, what the Nation have been *Faſting* and *Praying* for, *viz.* That ſome way may be found out, to *Maintain* the *Poor*, and put them to Work, and to keep them from *Idleneſs*, and advance the *Trade* of the Nation.

*FINIS.*